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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

## Supe honors Palisades fire survivor, educator

Louvenia Jenkins, 97, lost the home she owned for 70 years but remains resilient

By Steve Scauzillo  
SSCAUZILLO@SCNG.COM

She lived in her home in the Pacific Palisades for 70 years, a pioneer, a community pillar and a beacon of resilience.

And when the ferocious Palisades fire burned down her home, taking with it her tennis trophies and art from her world travels, 97-year-old Louve-

nia Jenkins said the loss didn't define her.

"I never thought I would be in this position, but like a phoenix, I shall rise," said Jenkins, after receiving a proclamation Tuesday from 3rd District Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, who represents Pacific Palisades.

Jenkins was one of the first Black residents in the Palisades,

Horvath said. She was an educator and also an administrator with the Los Angeles Unified School District, according to news reports.

"She has dedicated her life to teaching and mentoring young people," Horvath said before awarding the proclamation at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Jenkins started the Richard L. Sykes Memorial Scholarship, named after her uncle, which

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Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, left, honors Louvenia Jenkins, one of the first Black residents of Pacific Palisades, during Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting. **SARAH REINGEWIRTZ** STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY



The top of the closed Puente Hills Landfill in the City of Industry, near Hacienda Heights, seen in 2022, will become a panoramic overlook as part of the plans for the Puente Hills Landfill Regional Park. On Tuesday, L.A. County officials announced a round of new grants from a 2016 voter-approved park measure. **SARAH REINGEWIRTZ** — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## District awards \$17M for parks, open space

Money will go to reforestation of burned nature preserves, underserved populations

By Steve Scauzillo  
SSCAUZILLO@SCNG.COM

A rollout of \$17 million for parks and open space from a 2016 voter-approved measure was announced Tuesday that will add 623 acres of green space to 13 neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles County.

The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District said this round of funding from Measure A marks the largest parkland expansion in the park district's 31-year history.

Some of the money will go to restoring burned out preserves that are now barren, blackened landscapes where trees, flowers and wildlife once thrived. Also some trails, including those in the mountains north of Altadena, were



Sun breaks through the trees of Sycamore Canyon, which was purchased by the Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy in 2024. The nonprofit received a \$1.2 million grant on Tuesday. **COURTESY OF MAYA WALI RICHARDSON** — ARROYOS AND FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY

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L.A. COUNTY

## Landfills OK'd to take tons of debris

Supes give Calabasas, Sunshine Canyon, Lancaster green light to receive extra wildfire waste

By Steve Scauzillo  
SSCAUZILLO@SCNG.COM

Despite residents' concerns, three Los Angeles County landfills — Calabasas, Sunshine Canyon and Lancaster — were authorized Tuesday to accept tons of debris from the Palisades and Eaton fires.

By a unanimous 5-0 vote of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, the three municipal waste landfills received the green light to begin receiving truckloads of extra waste from thousands of burned-out homes and businesses in Pasadena,

**Inside:** EPA completes 99% of wildfire cleanup's first phase in record time, governor's office says. **PAGE A3**

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L.A. COUNTY

## Fire grant deadline nears for workers, small businesses

By Pat Maio  
PMAIO@SCNG.COM

Business owners, nonprofits and workers affected by last month's wildfires in Los Angeles County have less than a week to apply for local financial relief.

The deadline to apply for the L.A. Region Small Business Relief Fund and L.A. Region Worker Relief Fund is 5 p.m. Sunday.

The grants were made available after the January fires in the Pacific Palisades and Malibu area and the Eaton fire in Altadena. Those fires, which destroyed more than 16,000 structures, killed 29 people and burned a combined 37,000 acres in Los

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An artist's rendering depicts the new San Gabriel Valley Aquatic Center, which received funds made available by the passage of L.A. County's Measure A in 2016. **RENDERING COURTESY OF HMC ARCHITECTS**

## PARKS

From Page 1

wiped out in the Eaton fire and remain closed.

“After losing beloved parks and trails to disasters, this funding is a crucial step toward rebuilding and strengthening our communities,” 3rd District L.A. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath said.

For example, parts of Rubio Canyon northeast of Altadena were severely burned and so were several structures, according to the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy. The Pasadena-based nonprofit received \$1.2 million in this grant cycle to use for land acquisition,

said John Howell, executive director.

In the near future, the Regional Park and Open Space District will make available a funding grant to support fire recovery, reforestation and climate resilience efforts, said Norma García-González, director of the L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation and also the director of the district.

Besides nature preserves, the funds went to several cities and communities with underserved populations — often with fewer parks, playgrounds and open spaces than cities with average higher incomes.

Baldwin Park, a city in the San Gabriel Valley

with a population of about 71,000, received the highest grant award of \$2 million, the same amount awarded to Walnut Park in southeast L.A. County and Sylmar in the San Fernando Valley.

Baldwin Park, which city officials describe as “park poor,” will use the money to help purchase a half-acre parcel at 1837 Puente Ave. to be turned into an urban park with a playground, fitness equipment, a picnic area, shaded seating, restrooms and landscaping, the city reported.

“We are thrilled to receive this grant on behalf of our community,” said Baldwin Park Mayor Alejandra Avila. “This funding will allow us

### LIST OF AWARDEES

■ **Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy**, \$1.2 million; **Artesia**, \$585,000; **Baldwin Park**, \$2 million; **Carson**, \$1.4 million; **Covina**, \$840,146; **Coyotl + Macedualli** (Elephant Hill), \$1 million; **Sylmar** (city of Los Angeles), \$2 million; **L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation in Walnut Park**, \$2 million; **Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust in South Central Los Angeles**, \$770,000; **Mountains Restoration Trust in Malibu**, \$1 million; **North East Trees Inc.**, \$508,012;

to address historic inequities by creating a vibrant new green space in an area that has lacked easy access to recreational opportunities.”

First District Supervisor Hilda Solis noted how grant monies from the 2016 voter-approved initiative has been used to build new parks

and turn old buildings into green parks.

Money from Measure A was used to help fund the San Gabriel Valley Aquatic Center, and is being used to transform a portion of the site that housed MacLaren Hall in El Monte into a community park. The MacLaren Hall, closed

in 2003, was the subject of numerous lawsuits for sexual abuse of children who were housed there by the county.

Money from Measure A is also being used to develop Puente Hills Regional Park, Solis said. The project would convert one of the largest landfills in the country into a regional park.

“This landmark initiative, passed by voters in 2016, was designed to ensure that every Angeleno has access to safe, beautiful parks,” Solis said. “The acquisition of 623 acres of new parkland is a significant achievement in reducing park inequities, and it brings us one step closer to a greener, healthier future for all.”



Louvenia Jenkins, honored Tuesday at a county supervisors meeting, started a scholarship in the 2019-20 academic year that supported 25 first-year African American students. **SARAH REINGEWIRTZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

## JENKINS

From Page 1

has helped many young people go to college, Horvath explained. Starting in the 2019-2020 academic year, the scholarship supported 25 first-year African American students in the Los Angeles area, according to her GoFundMe page.

As of Tuesday, she had received 752 donations and

raised more than \$55,000.

Recently, students from Santa Monica College made a documentary about her life, according to the GoFundMe page. “We celebrate the love, strength and community that defines her life,” Horvath said. “You have been there for so many Angelenos in their time of need. Now, Los Angeles County is honored to be of service to you.”

Jenkins said she lost all the certificates from various

agencies recognizing her philanthropic work. Horvath said she would work to get those replaced.

The Palisades fire took the lives of 12 people and destroyed 6,835 structures.

Jenkins, who walked with a cane to stand next to Horvath and receive the framed proclamation, stood tall, and posed for photos with the supervisor.

“It is hard to find the words to express my appreciation,” Jenkins said.

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